

I Claim:

1. A peristaltic pump for use in ophthalmic surgery comprising:
 - a housing;
 - a pump head having a plurality of rollers held within the housing;
 - a backing plate attached to the housing;
 - resilient surgical tubing positioned between the pump head and the backing plate; andwherein the pump head is moveable relative to the housing, such that when the pump head is in an open position the surgical tubing is easily inserted between the pump head and the backing plate and wherein the pump head then translates to an operative position, such that as the pump head is rotated the rollers and backing plate cooperate to compress the tubing to peristaltically pump aspirant from a surgical site through the tubing.

2. A peristaltic pump for use in ophthalmic surgery comprising:
 - a housing
 - a pump head having a plurality of rollers held within the housing;
 - a backing plate attached to the housing and for cooperation with the pump head; andwherein the pump head moves relative to the housing and towards and away from the backing plate.

3. A peristaltic pump for use in ophthalmic surgery comprising:
 - a housing;
 - a pump head having a plurality of rollers extending from the housing;
 - a backing plate attached to the housing and for cooperation with the pump head; andwherein the pump head moves relative to the housing and backing plate from an open position to an operative position for insertion of resilient surgical tubing between the rollers and the backing plate for peristaltically pumping aspirant through the tubing from a patient's eye during surgery.

4. A peristaltic pump for use in ophthalmic surgery comprising:
- a housing;
 - a pump head having a plurality of rollers held within the housing;
 - a backing plate attached to the housing and for cooperation with the pump head;
 - a surgical cartridge including a length of resilient tubing connected to a collection bag and for connection to a surgical aspiration device via additional tubing; and
 - a cartridge holder drawer for holding the surgical cartridge and moveable from an open position to an operative position;
- wherein the pump head moves relative to the housing, such that after the drawer moves from the open position to the operative position, the pump head is moved toward the backing plate, such that the rollers and the backing plate cooperate to peristaltically pump aspirant through the length of tubing as the pump head is rotated.